



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

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Media Update #1: Evaluation/Technical Assessment

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency names team lead in evaluation/technical assessment effort

WHAT: In response to a recent directive from the Office of the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Chemical Demilitarization and Threat Reduction), the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) formed an evaluation team to conduct an in-depth, technical assessment. The directive instructed CMA to:

- develop alternatives for achieving the April 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention deadline of destroying the U.S. stored chemical agent stockpile, and
- safeguard the chemical agent stockpile when relocation among sites is considered as an alternative.

WHEN: The Army received this directive, signed January 10, 2005, from the Department of Defense on Friday, January 14, 2005 (Copies available upon request). The interim deadline on the technical assessment is February 18, 2005, with a final reporting date to Mr. Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics) of March 21, 2005.

WHO: CMA designated Mr. Kevin P. Duvall, Acting Director of the CMA's Cooperative Threat Reduction Support Directorate, to lead this technical assessment. Mr. Duvall's team will include representatives from the following:

- Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Chemical Demilitarization and Threat Reduction);
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons);
- CMA Risk Management Directorate;

For more information,
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Chemical Materials
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- CMA Technical Support Directorate;
- CMA Public Affairs Office;
- CMA Resource Management Directorate;
- CMA Office of Counsel;
- CMA Project Manager for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons;
- CMA Project Manager for Chemical Stockpile Disposal;
- CMA Project Manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches;
- CMA Product Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel;
- CMA Acquisition Reporting Office;
- CMA Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program;
- CMA Center for Treaty Implementation and Compliance;
- CMA Stockpile Management Team;
- CMA Plans and Operations Directorate;
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and,
- U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command

CMA COMMENT: CMA Director Michael A. Parker said, "The technical assessment is in an early stage. It is too early to speculate what will be included in the assessment. We will meet the directive given us. I have complete faith in Kevin and his team. They have the expertise necessary to complete this mandate. Our mission at CMA is to safely store and dispose of these obsolete weapons while fulfilling the imperative of national defense. Safety of our workers, our communities and our environment will not be compromised."

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: As of Jan. 26, 2005, chemical weapons disposal operations in Utah, Maryland, Alabama, Oregon, and on Johnston Island have resulted in the safe destruction of almost 35 percent of the nation's declared chemical weapons stockpile involving 42 percent of originally declared munitions. Disposal operations are set to begin in Arkansas and Indiana in the coming months.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.

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